

## FORM A

### Information Needed For Evaluation of National Assessments

#### Kindergarten through Grade 12 Summative Assessments:

1. What data, alignment studies, etc., can be provided to document that the assessment is fully aligned to the Common Core State Standards? How were test items developed and field tested? Information on the test blueprint may be provided as well.

The College Board is undertaking a redesign of the SAT to better meet the needs of students, schools, and colleges at all levels. Through this new assessment, we at The College Board will better connect K-12 and higher education institutions through an innovative, evidence-based approach that sharply focuses on a core set of knowledge and skills essential for college and career readiness. The assessment will take advantage of the most powerful ideas in the Common Core State Standards, thereby more effectively guiding all students in their preparation for the rigors of college and career.

The following signify key shifts in the redesign of the SAT:

- The assessment will model good instruction. It will be well written and offer real insights and discoveries as problems are solved. Passages will be worth reading more than once.
- The assessment will measure what really matters as defined by the best available evidence of what is essential for readiness in postsecondary education and career training programs. There will be visible alignment to the core shifts in instruction that are at the heart of the Common Core State Standards.
- The test will assess that which is worthy of practice and will be made absolutely transparent. We at the College Board will take responsibility for the practice that the test inspires.
- The assessment will measure college and career readiness skills through realistic academic and career-related contexts relevant to a range of college majors and careers.
- The assessment will focus on students' command of evidence—in reading, writing and language, and mathematics—as demonstrated in a broad array of contexts, including literature and literary nonfiction; global/international issues; history/social studies; science; and career-related pathways.
- The assessment will allow students to demonstrate what they have learned and the complex cognitive skills that they can apply to what they have learned in K-12 education across a broad continuum of achievement.
- Literacy in the real world requires a deep reading and understanding of a wide variety of sources that include both text and data; mathematics in the

real world requires sustained chains of reasoning and application. The redesigned SAT will showcase problems in which literacy and numeracy unlock insights within rich real-world contexts.

The primary purposes of the redesigned SAT are: (a) to inform college admissions decisions; (b) to assist in placement into entry level postsecondary courses; and (c) determine if students are on target for college-and career-readiness. The redesigned SAT will remain top in the field in terms of technical quality (i.e., validity and reliability), maintaining or improving the admission/placement efficacy in postsecondary education. The content, skills, and item formats included in the redesigned SAT deeply and comprehensively reflect the spirit and intent of the Common Core State Standards and do so efficiently. The item and test development process will continue to follow and improve on best practice in educational measurement, producing assessments that are valid and reliable for measuring college and career readiness and that are fair and meaningful to all students.

## 2. At each grade level and content area, what will the assessments measure?

The redesigned RediStep (8/9), PSAT/NMSQT (10/11) and SAT (11/12) will cover content appropriate for grades 8 through Early Postsecondary. The tests will consist of Reading, Writing and Mathematics sections.

### **Reading, Language and Writing Sections**

- Focus on a blend of textual sources: literature, literary non-fiction, history/social studies, science and technical subjects
- Reading and writing based on evidence
- Use of Founding Documents and Great Conversations

### **Mathematics Section**

- Visibly aligns with the Core shifts in instruction at the heart of the Common Core
  - Focus where standards focus
  - Coherence across grades and topics
  - Rigor in conceptual understanding, procedural skill, fluency, and application
- Require much stronger command of many fewer topics
- Include problems rich in application, reflecting realistic multistep problems like those encountered in real life
- Include problems contextualized in career settings
  - Focusing on the applications of math and its role in careers and in academic settings
  - Reflecting the need for a secure foundation of math essentials for a wide range of sciences/social sciences

## 3. How will student proficiency be communicated?

- Scale score unique to grade level
- Vertical or developmental scale score
- Proficiency categories
- Other

ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT use vertically-scaled scores for literacy (reading + language & writing skills) and mathematics. The scores can be used for student growth models.

In addition to composite scores the tests will feature area scores in math and literacy, subscores that focus on important areas of college and career readiness, as well as cross-test subscores focusing on Analysis of Science and Analysis of History/Social Studies.

**4. What entity will maintain the security of the test item bank?**

The College Board and its subcontractors will maintain the security of the test item bank.

**5. Will the cut scores be uniformly established, or will states set individual cut scores for student performance?**

ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT have nationally validated College and Career Readiness Benchmarks to measure progress toward mastering college and career-readiness skills. The College Board will work with South Carolina DOE to better understand and support specific state requirements.

**6. Will the assessments be vertically aligned to measure individual student progress across grades?**

ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT assessments are tightly linked to provide data on individual student progress starting in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Cross-walking with the consortia 3-8 assessments will ensure a seamless progression for the students of South Carolina.

**7. Will the assessments contain multiple question types including constructed responses, selected response, etc.?**

ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT contain multiple choice questions. The SAT and PSAT/NMSQT also have constructed response item types, and the SAT includes an essay.

**8. Are the tests untimed? If so, on average, how many minutes are students projected to take to complete the summative assessment in the following content :**

- English language arts
- Mathematics
- Writing
- Science

The SAT and PSAT/NMSQT summative tests are timed tests. The same day testing time for each assessment is approximately 4 hours. Each assessment includes sections of literacy (reading + language & writing skills) and mathematics.

ReadiStep is a 2-hour test with three multiple-choice sections: reading, writing and math. The test can be given all at once or over 3 class periods.

**9. Which assessments can be *computer-administered*?**

Is the test **adaptive**?

What is the projected window when the assessment will be given?

When would the results be provided to schools, teachers, parents, etc.?

What are the broadband and computer specifications?

Is the test content stored locally, or are items transported on-demand through the internet?

The redesigned SAT and PSAT/NMSQT are not expected to be available in digital format for the initial launch. Before moving to a digital platform, the College Board wants to be certain that all students can have access to technology, that technology is not barrier to our programs for anyone because of income, race/ethnicity, or where they go to school. We want to offer a digital version of the SAT that is an authentic measure of what's important for college and career readiness through a reliable and secure delivery system. The assessments are not planned to become adaptive at this time. When the assessments are available digitally, broadband and computer specifications will follow the RTTT-A consortia technical specifications.

10. Does the assessment allow for ***paper and pencil*** administration?

If so, what is the projected timeline when the assessment will be given?

When would the results be provided to schools, teachers, parents, etc.?

Paper and pencil will be the only format available initially. To meet accountability needs, the assessment Test results are expected approximately 6 to 8 weeks after test administration and will be offered in the Spring.

11. Can the assessment results be used in guiding teacher evaluations?

As mentioned previously ReadStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT use vertically-scaled scores for literacy (reading + language & writing skills) and mathematics to determine if students are on target for college-and career-readiness. While none of the College Board assessments have been developed specifically for the purposes of teacher and principal evaluation, assessment data, when properly used and subject to several constraints, can be used in conjunction with other educational outcome measures to make inferences about school quality and educational quality, including teaching and learning, especially if overall student growth in college and career readiness is a valued goal. The College Board will work with the State to support state-specific needs in this area.

12. What would be the earliest school year that full implementation of the assessment could take place in SC?

The redesigned SAT and PSAT/NMSQT will available in spring 2015.

13. Please indicate how the assessment:

- Assesses students with disabilities; and
- Assesses students who are English language learners.

The College Board assessments provide valid results under the College Board Services for Students with Disabilities broad testing accommodations. The College Board works with states to better understand and support state-specific needs to ensure access.

14. What is the per pupil cost of the assessment for students assuming that only ELA, writing and mathematics are assessed? What is the per pupil cost of the assessment for science, if available?
Pricing has not yet been determined for the redesigned ReadStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT. More information will be available in January 2014.
15. Which districts and schools in SC participated in pilot tests in school year 2012-13?
N/A
16. Which districts and schools in SC will participate in the field testing in school year 2013-14?
<p>Several schools throughout the state have participated in previous field trials. As we finalize our plans for field testing some participating schools may include:</p> <p>AC Flora HS – Columbia  Batesburg-Leesville High - Batesburg  Bethune-Bowman Middle/High - Rowesville  Carolina Forest High – Myrtle Beach  Chapman High - Inman  Columbia High - Columbia  Cross High – Cross  Dreher High – Columbia  Easley High - Easley  Eau Claire HS – Columbia  Hartsville High - Hartsville  Lamar High - Lamar  Latta High - Latta  Lee Central High – Bishopville  Lower Richland High – Hopkins  Lugoff Elgin High - Lugoff  Ninety Six High – Ninety Six  Palmetto High - Williamston  St Johns High – John’s Island  Walhalla High - Walhalla</p>
17. How will the <b>reliability</b> of the assessment be evaluated?
The College Board uses internal consistency estimates to evaluate our assessments' reliability.
<b>Beyond Summative Assessments: The Continuum</b>
What other assessments are available? Please provide a breakdown of the assessment costs per test of these additional supports, assessments, etc. as well as the content area and mode of administration. If possible, please include a description of how these assessments support teaching and learning.
• Formative/Classroom
• Interim
• End-of-Course
• Performance Tasks
• Other

These assessments will be implemented as part of a broader college and career readiness system, which will be announced in 2014. As such, we provide this information for the purposes of this questionnaire only, and we would ask that the information below be kept confidential.

In addition to the redesigned assessments, the College Board system will include several new resources including:

- A new 6-11 Instructional Framework Program
  - Offers performance tasks that can be customized to provide indicators for accountability
  - Offers rigorous syllabi, model task assignments, and writing-to-sources open source resource bank
  - Designed on literacy and numeracy backbone of PSAT and SAT
  - Creates robust teacher community across disciplines
- Accelerator™
  - On-demand, online diagnostic assessment (classroom based) Diagnosis of academic strengths and weaknesses focused on what matters most for college and career readiness; propels students who are off target to instructional next steps and identifies instructional next steps for students ready for more advanced work